

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 02/07/21

In today's First Reading, Job describes the futility of life. He said, "Is not man's life on earth a drudgery?" "My days... come to an end without hope. I shall not see happiness again."

It harkens back to the curse placed upon all of humanity following Adam and Eve's disobedience to God's law.

Cursed is the ground because of you! In toil you shall eat its yield all the days of your life. Thorns and thistles it shall bear for you, and you shall eat the grass of the field. By the sweat of your brow you shall eat bread, until you return to the ground, from which you were taken; For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

All this because they ate an apple. Whether it was an apple or not, whether we choose to believe that this is a true story or not, it is a story of truth. Even disobedience to the simplest of God's commands carries with it consequences.

And without Christ and the promise of the resurrection in the midst of so much drudgery the only sound philosophy of life would be that of the Greek philosopher Epicurus who summed up existence in the following words: "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we shall die."

In a world that has, practically speaking, left Christ and his Church behind this probably sounds very familiar to most of us. It is called hedonism – if it feels good do it.

Some people actually live by this creed. Fortunately, not everyone does. Otherwise, it would be mass chaos everywhere.

But the stakes are actually infinitely higher than just the possibility of a total social breakdown and mass chaos.

The stakes are actually heaven or hell.

Unfortunately, too many Catholics are trying to walk on both sides of the fence by picking and choosing Catholic teaching according to the dictates of their own conscience.

But a conscience must be well-formed in order for it to be a trustworthy guide to know moral truth.

There is nothing more deadly to a Catholic than a malformed conscience. It is a sickness that can be very difficult to heal.

In the gospel today, Jesus healed Simon's mother-in-law who was sick with a fever. After that he was inundated with people seeking physical and spiritual healing.

We heard that everyone was looking for him.

And many people were healed because they sought Jesus. They found him because, as he said, "For this purpose I have come."

Jesus was not hiding from them nor is he hiding from any one of us. He's waiting to be found. In fact he is always searching for us that he may be found. Are we searching for him in return so that he can heal us?

As I said before, even disobedience to the simplest of God's commands carries with it consequences – some very severe.

If any of us are picking and choosing which proverbial apples we are going to enjoy and which ones we are going to avoid in spite of Church teaching then we are in need of healing.

Picking and choosing is a very dangerous game to play.

Without Jesus man's life on earth is truly a drudgery and his days will come to an end without hope. Without Jesus there will never be real happiness in this life or in the life to come.

But we are made for heaven so today let's seek Jesus who is seeking us all the more and ask him to heal us in any way he may see fit so that we may be with him in this life and one day be with him for all eternity in heaven.